

**Andrew Jackson to Martin Van Buren, March 30, 1837,  
from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by  
John Spencer Bassett.**

**TO PRESIDENT VAN BUREN.**

Hermitage, March 30, 1837.

*My dear sir,* I reached home on the 25th instant somewhat improved in strength, but with a very bad cough, increased by cold taken on board the Steam Boat. Our worthy, Doctor Lawson has left us, and will be at Washington before this reaches you—he accompanied me to the Hemitage, staid but two nights, when he with Col Earle went to Nashville to make arrangements for his return to the City, was to have returned before he set out, but being disappointed in getting a Steam Boat set out in the stage by Louisville Ky, and prevented me from the pleasure of seeing him again. for your kindness, and solicitude for my preservation in sending Dr. Lawson with me I can only make you a tender of my thanks—this act is deeply treasured, by gratitude, in my heart. I have not been able to go any where since I reached home, unless to major Donelsons to see his dear little Rachel who is unwell and confined to a dark room with a very sore and inflamed eye. I hope rest in due time, may restore my health so as to be enabled to amuse myself in riding over my farm, and visiting my neighbours. this will be a source of much pleasure to me—be this as it may I have a great right to be, as I am, very thankful to a kind providence for sparing me to reach my home with my little family.

The approbation I have recd. from the people on my return on the close of my official life, has been very gratifying to me. I have been every where cheered by my numerous democratic republican friends, and many of the repenting Whigs with a hearty welcome,

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“and well done thou faithful servant”. This is truly the patriots reward, and a source of great gratification to me, and will be my solace to the grave.

When I review the arduous administration thro which I have passed, the formidable opposition I have met to its very close, by the combined talents, wealth, and power of the whole aristocracy of the union, aided as they were, by the money monopoly, u.s. Bank, with its power of corruption, with which we had to contend, the result must be not only pleasing to me, but to every patriot. it shews the virtue and power of the sovereign people, and that all must bow to public opinion. it was the sovereign people that nobly sustained me against this formidable power, and enabled me to terminate my administration so satisfactory to the great body of the democracy of our Country. This is a pleasing foreboding for the future that your Eight years will terminate successfully, and that you will be hailed, by the great body of the sovereign people, “well done thou faithful servant”. By acting up to those pledges given in your inaugural address, which none of your friends doubt, this result is certain. You have only to be guarded against apostates, and ambitious deceitful men—you must not temporise with any, but fearlessly pursue your principles avowed, *and the people will sustain you against all apostates, ambitious, and designing men—demagogues* we have in our ranks, and remember, that I had many influential professing friends that apostatised, in whom, I had great confidence. Your cabinet is filled by talent and integrity, in whom you can confide in this, you are safe, and I have no fear but your administration will be a successfull one.

I cannot close without drawing your attention again to the safety of the deposit Banks of the west, and south—the planters of the south west are deeply indebted, and are paying the merchants, brokers, and Banks at the rate of 30 percent for mony—this I get from a creditable source, hence the press for more Banks. the rail road Bank of 15,000,000 has already failed, a large House in Neworleans has also failed, some say for six, others for ten millions. Let the Secretary of the Treasury look to this, and have the Banks *well examined*. I fear when he does, he will find in many but little specie, but a large amount called cash or specie, in notes of specie paying Banks, entered as cash and specie, and if

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those Banks were called on to pay their notes, they must stop paying specie. The treasury order is popular with the people everywhere I have passed, but all the speculators, and those largely indebted, *want more paper*. the more it depreciates, the easier they can pay their debts, and all such care but little about the success of your administration and what becomes of the revenue—but I tell you, should any of the Deposit banks fail, it will shake your administration to its center—prudence would, as it seems to me, await the memorials from *the people, the working classes*, before it would be safe to suspend it. The people are paying now, as I am informed a discount of from 5 to 10 percent on the Banks bills for cash—our Nashville Banks issue no notes payable at their own counter, and their bills are much under par. these hints are submitted for your safety and mature reflection and that of the Secretary of the Treasury. I write you with the frankness of friendship, with a heart felt desire that your administration may be as successful as all your friends wish and anticipate. check the paper mania and its corrupting consequences, *and the republic is safe, and your administration must end in triumph*.

Rumor and some newspapers say, Col King refused the embassy to Austria?is this true.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Presumably Col. William R. King of Alabama.

my whole household unite in kind salutations to you and yours—my little grandson answers, when asked who gave him the silver cup, my god father, Mr. Van Buren. will you present us to the heads of Depts and their families, affectionately and believe me

your friend